

2013 Needs Assessment for Marshall County

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Accomplishments

Over the past year, the Education and Health Committees partnered with Albertville City Schools and Marshall Medical Centers to provide training for school counselors and school nurses from all five school systems. A different topic was provided quarterly with wonderful speakers and lunch provided by Marshall Medical Centers. It was a great success and a plan is in place to provide the same next school year.

Public Service Announcements concerning nutrition have been sent to local media. Social Media has been utilized to distribute information. Public Service Announcements have been used in local media to address infant safety.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

School age children spend many hours of their adolescent life under the supervision of teachers and other school personnel. Besides educating, schools continue to deal with problems associated with various forms of crisis, drugs and mental illness. School counselors and nurses need the appropriate training to recognize and handle these issues as they occur.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Marshall County Department of Human Resources is the agency to make abuse and neglect reports to.2. School counselors in each school are taught to recognize signs of abuse and neglect and identify children who may be exhibiting signs of mental illness.3. Our hospitals and the local mental health center are first responders to crisis of various forms.4. School nurses help identify abuse, neglect and mental health issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Social Workers in the schools.2. School counselors who are trained in mental health issues.3. Mental Health counselors in all schools.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Train school nurses in signs to look for when concerns appear related to drug abuse, adolescent depression and various other forms of crisis including rape.
2. Train school counselors on steps to take to identify and proper reporting concerning rape or other forms of sexual crisis.
3. The Education Committee will partner with Marshall Medical Centers to offer free quarterly training to school counselors and nurses. This training will tentatively include such topics as: adolescent depression; current drug trends and identifying abuse and neglect.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Increase the image of vocational type fields. Increase awareness of what "Career Readiness" means for students in the 4th grade.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Launch Program2. Local education systems3. Local banks4. Marshall County Economic Development5. Snead State Community College	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Coordination and organizations of materials/programs2. Guest speakers

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Update information from schools throughout the county to see what is currently being done in each grade and get input from teachers and counselors as to what is needed in each school.
2. Plan one county wide career day or designate one month as "Career Awareness" Month.
3. Provide every child in the 4th grade in Marshall County the opportunity to participate in a career related activity.
4. Recruit volunteers to talk to students about career readiness.
5. Other ideas included, develop an "Ask the Expert" web site or Facebook page with links to other career information.
6. Conduct activities that will present Trade/Vocational Careers and Technical Education as a viable choice for young people.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Develop an internet based community tool for agencies to share information with each other and the public.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local education systems2. Department of Human Resources3. Mountain Lakes Behavioral Healthcare4. Juvenile Probation5. Other agencies that serve children and families	

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Form a committee to identify the type of information to be shared.
2. Identify person from each agency to post information.
3. Identify a knowledgeable technology person willing to work with the committee.
4. Put a link from each agency web site to the information sharing site.